

## RED-HAired GIRLS

REALLY DIFFERENT IN TEMPERAMENT FROM OTHER WOMEN.

Highly Nervous and Sensitive. They Are Always Vivacious, Never Stupid—Either Away Up in the Clouds or Happiness, or In the Slough of Despondency—For Ages They Have Been Warred Against—One in History Being Offered Up as a Sacrifice—Cleopatra's Hair Red From Chemical Action

Instances are rare in which one meets the red-haired man in drama, poetry or art, but the red-haired woman is omnipresent. The peculiar "off-color" of her tresses has been a favorite theme for the song of the poet, the invective of the cynic and the joke of the clown since time immemorial.

Superstition has attributed to hair of coppery tinge, when it adorns a woman's head, the basest traits and the most exalted virtues. All the petty vices, all the magnificent and admirable qualities, all the lamentable shortcomings to which femininity is heir have been laid to the charge of the reddish crown. Artists have been kinder, especially those of the Italian school. To them the hair that Titian loved is and ever has been little less than sacred. On the heads of none but the high-born patrician lady, the saint or the madonna would the old Roman and Florentine masters place a halo of amber-tinted hair.

Spanish artists smug the red-haired woman, and for two good reasons. First, because of the tradition which has led them to always portray the traitorous thirteenth disciple of the Saviour as a man with red hair, and this superstition is also responsible no doubt for the epithet "Judas hair," so commonly used in Shakespeare's time. The second and more modern reason for the Spanish aversion is that red hair is in direct opposition to that of Castilian women, who form the classic ideal of feminine loveliness to the people of that country.

Red hair is a gift which our somewhat partial Mother Nature bestows upon only about one out of every 432 of her Caucasian daughters. Just how many of her sons she thus endows nobody has ever taken the pains to estimate. Nor is the laborious task likely to be undertaken, as the world has not so greatly interested in the red-haired man as it is in the red-haired girl. And why? Because red hair on a man's head is not recognized as an index to character. The red-haired man is conceded to be pretty much like any other man.

But the red-haired woman! When it comes to the consideration of that question you have a horse of a different color. The question is not made with and allusions to the traditional white steed that usually gallops by the side of the red-haired girl.

Now there is red hair and red hair. Under red is classed anything not black, white, brown, or "no color." No matter whether it is the fiery Miltian shock, the pale shimmering amber; whether the burnished tawny auburn or the "brown in shadow, gold in sun"—red it is and ever has been called, and so it will be to the crack of doom.

It is a serious thing for a woman to be red-haired. It makes her the most sensitive of human creatures. She is invariably shrinking and self-conscious as a child, for if her hair be the most prized tint of burnished gold or auburn it is the cause of just as many remarks as if it were the most fiery copper. She knows she has what is called "red hair," and she understands that red hair is not generally considered beautiful. If it be of a carotey hue she knows that every member of the family cherishes the fond hope that in time it will grow darker.

Is it any wonder that she is self-conscious and shrinking? With her school days her troubles multiply. Honors she may gain in her class are attributed not to her brain but to her hair. Her classmates have such disagreeable ways of saying that all red-headed people are smart on the same theory that they are bad tempered. Not until she reaches womanhood does she discover that her hair is beautiful, and then it is not a woman but a man who tells her so. If she has been a close observer she will have discovered that she gets little flattery from the women upon the subject of her hair.

In one respect all red-haired women are identical. They are all sensitive, nervous and highly strung. The red-haired woman can be nothing else. It is impossible for her to be phlegmatic. She is not necessarily brilliant, but she is never stupid. She is intensely emotional, but rarely, if ever, sentimental. She is always an extrovert. She must be either scaling the heights of the mountains or sitting in the slough of despond. To her tranquility is unknown. If not supremely happy, she is thoroughly miserable, and the least thing makes her either one or the other. She suffers and enjoys more keenly than any other type of human being. Pleasure to the red-haired woman can be so exquisite as to cause pain, and she can make herself so miserable as to actually find that sensation delightful.

Sometimes she is bad-tempered, but not often, for because she is red-haired it does not necessarily follow that she is "red-headed." Among red-haired women the artistic temperament is exceedingly strong, but as she lacks great executive ability, as well as the creative faculty, the Titan girl has not figured conspicuously as either poetess or musician. She is a good imitator, however, and succeeds well either as an actress or artist. She has no head for mathematics, but she learns languages readily.

She is almost devoid of hypnotic power, but is herself extremely susceptible to its influence. But the red-haired woman is something more than a physical wonder. For almost as many reasons she is a physical phenomenon. She is the only specimen of human being whose flesh tints are blue, instead of the ordinary pink of common mortals. The colorings peculiar to the red-haired woman are prized and praised by artists more than is the hue of her tresses. Indeed, in an artist's eyes this is her chief charm. From an artistic standpoint the skin and flesh that accompany the most Mission red hair are the most perfect and beautiful studies in human coloring. To the untrained eye the rare complexion so often possessed by the "strawberry blonde" is nothing more than a harmonious and richly contrasted ensemble of pink and white and red, but artists are unanimous in their recognition of that subtle bluish cast reflected by the "red-haired skin."

The prejudice against red hair, especially the red-haired woman, is as old almost as time. In the records of the Egyptians are found the most caustic aspersions. There was indeed a burning

hated, for we have it on such good authority as Diodorus that this highly civilized people annually offered up to Typhon, the devil, an unfortunate female victim whose only crime was the color of her hair. Their unreasonable prejudice is accounted for by the fact that they were continually at war with a barbaric, red-haired people called the Rebo.

But, despite the well-known hatred of her people for red hair, it was thought for a long time that Cleopatra herself had a wealth of auburn tresses. It has recently been discovered, however, that the red hair found on the alleged mummy of the star-eyed sorceress of the Nile was due to the chemical action of the fluids used in embalming.

Among ancient people who have cherished a dislike for copper hair the Egyptians are not alone. It was little less abhorrent to the Persians, and the Chinese to this day call those whom they dislike "red-headed devils."

In marked contrast to the unreasonable aversion of these nations is the strong liking of the Italians for this type of beauty. The Romans, from the days of Nero to the present, have been unstinted in their praise of all shades and tones of red hair. With the old Romans the color most esteemed was a dark red, almost brown. Modern Romans inherited the tastes of their ancestors in this respect, and nowhere else on the face of the earth are so many red-haired women found as among the patrician families of Rome and Florence. The same liking exists among modern Greeks, who strive to accentuate the burnished effect of their reddish tresses by the wearing of dull gold ornaments.

Some Seasonable Advice. Do be careful to speak very distinctly when giving your name to the address especially to the attendant sales people. In the hurry of Christmas shopping mistakes are frequent. Do try to get what you want without impatience. Christmas buying is no sin, cure to any one and standing all day waiting upon capricious customers is the reverse of a gay festival.

Do endeavor if you do not care to be rung up in the middle of the night, to carry your light-weight purchases home instead of having them marked "special."

Do avoid the center aisles of great department stores, excepting your business calls there. The longest may "round in" the shortest way out.

Do remember to put a sprig of mistletoe at every man's place at your table, and a bunch of holly for the faire maydons on Xmas day.

Do believe that no matter how small or inexpensive the gift, it should fit the recipient, please the eye, and reflect your kindly thoughtfulness.

Do make the salespeople have the price tags removed from every article. Nothing is more "distasteful" than to read the cost (in coin) of an acquired article on Christmas day.

Do not expect your family to pay for your extravagance at Yuletide by doing without some necessary thing. That is serving against our dearest to gratify ourselves.

Do add to your joy this year by the knowledge that of your little, or of your abundance, you have given some very poor family cause to bless your name.

Do remember your list and pencil, even if your memory is phenomenal; the maddening crowds confuse all women at times.

Do take into consideration the surroundings of those outside the home circle when buying gifts for them. A young soldier of military brushes, for a busy young student while living in a boarding house, would be a constant care, while a bath robe, down quilt, or lounging jacket, might be a veritable delight.

Do refrain from making presents of framed pictures to an artist, embroidery to an "art worker," or commit the blunder of buying cheap cut glass for a matron whose cabinets are over-filled with the best.

Do buy lots of different color tissue paper, and tiny white silk ribbon. The most trivial gift done up attractively is twice as acceptable as though packed in excelsior.

Do write the name of the person to whom packages are to be sent very large and plainly. Drivers of delivery wagons and expressmen have little time to study chiropically.

Do try to have your long distance gifts arrive upon the morning of the Holy festival. A day before or after makes it less thoroughly an Xmas gift.

Do give your humble friends cause to wait blessings upon your head, but do not give one servant a penny's worth more than another, lest cooks spoil the broth, or the "upstairs girl" breaks your favorite ornaments in their wrath.

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